

[English]

ROUTINE PROCEEDINGS

PETITIONS

GOVERNMENT RESPONSE

Mr. Albert Cooper (Parliamentary Secretary to Leader of the Government in the House of Commons): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36(8), I have the honour to table, in both official languages, the government's response to 47 petitions.

[*Editor's Note: See today's Votes and Proceedings.*]

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, pursuant to Standing Order 36, it is my honour to table petitions on behalf of my constituents of Parkdale—High Park.

The petitioners say that whereas the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq is unacceptable and cannot be tolerated, and as a result that the United Nations sanctions may be slow in coming, and foreign nationals are still being detained; and whereas Canadian troops are currently in the Persian Gulf and their presence may be required for an undetermined length of time, they humbly pray and call upon Parliament to commit that any Canadian involvement in military action be solely at the command of and under the auspices of the United Nations.

• (1510)

MATERNITY BENEFITS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, the next petition is on parental leave. The petitioners are very concerned. They are pleased to see that the current legislation on maternity benefits has been extended as of November 18, 1990 to include an additional 10 weeks of parental benefits for the mother, and a new 10-week claim for parental benefits for the father.

Unfortunately, there are a number of women who are currently enjoying their right to 17 weeks maternity leave under the former legislation. These women have been informed that they will be obliged to return to work at the end of the 17 weeks, work for another 20 weeks, during which time the new baby will have been weaned, have been part of a child care program under the care of the mother and/or father.

Routine Proceedings

They call upon the government to recognize the difficult situation in which these women find themselves, and allow them the option of running a new claim for the additional 10 weeks, immediately after the claim under which they are currently covered.

HUMAN RIGHTS

Mr. Jesse Flis (Parkdale—High Park): Mr. Speaker, I have a further petition on another subject. The petitioners want to highlight to this House the continuing gross human rights violations in Iran.

They humbly pray and call upon Parliament to bring to the attention of the Government of Canada reference to the fact that since last year the situation of human rights has deteriorated and the use of terrorism by the ruling mullahs expanded dramatically.

They request that the Government of Canada actively participate in introducing and passing resolutions during the current 45th session of the United Nations General Assembly condemning the severe violation of human rights in Iran, as well as paying tribute to the memory of Professor Rajavi.

PERSIAN GULF CRISIS

Mr. Raymond Skelly (North Island—Powell River): Mr. Speaker, I have the honour to present a petition signed at a demonstration against Canada participating in war in Iraq.

The petitioners ask Parliament to prevent Canadian Armed Forces from being used to attack Iraq. They point out that 87 per cent of Canadians are absolutely opposed to the Prime Minister of this country and that the majority of Canadians oppose the use of Canadian Armed Forces in this war. In fact, probably the major impediment to exercising the wishes of Canadians on this matter is the Prime Minister and the Conservative Government.

Mr. Robert E. Skelly (Comox—Alberni): Mr. Speaker, I have a petition pursuant to Standing Order 36 which calls on Parliament to recognize that, whereas international economic sanctions have had a demonstrable effect on Iraq, and whereas the military strategy of blockades is preferable to war, the shedding of blood and the loss of human life.

Wherefore, the undersigned, the petitioners, humbly pray and call upon Parliament to give economic sanctions against Iraq a chance to work and withdraw all but peacekeeping Canadian military from the gulf. That is signed by 48 people from coastal British Columbia.